

Message Text

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USEEC FOR BRUSSELS, PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: US-EC COOPERATION ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 4043, (B) BRUSSELS 1601, (C) BRUSSELS
5825

1. WE APPRECIATE EC INITIATIVE AND OBJECTIVES IN
SUGGESTING CONSULTATION LOOKING TOWARDS POSSIBLE US/EC
COOPERATION ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL, ELEMENTS OF WHICH
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WERE OUTLINED IN REFTEL (A). WE ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE EC
SUGGESTIONS BUT WISH TO ASSURE THAT ANY SUCH CONSULTATION
IS IN HARMONY BOTH WITH DOMESTIC US IMPLEMENTATION OF TSCA,
AND ALREADY-PLANNED INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION AND OTHER
ACTIVITIES E.G., STOCKHOLM, OECD AND ECE. UNDOUBTEDLY, EC
WOULD ALSO WISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DOMESTIC US TIMETABLE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL DEVELOP-

MENTS IN PLANNING FOR HARMONIZATION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. WE ANTICIPATE BEING IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY WITH EC COMMISSION STAFF ON APRIL 10 HOW BEST TO PROCEED. HOWEVER, FINAL DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN LATER AFTER RESULTS OF THE STOCKHOLM MEETING AND OECD DELIBERATIONS ARE KNOWN AND HAVE BEEN ASSESSED BY BOTH THE US AND EC.

2. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION: UNDER TSCA, THE INVENTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, BECAME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 1978. THE INVENTORY OF EXISTING CHEMICALS IS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1979. PRE-MANUFACTURING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES ON NEW CHEMICALS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE 30 DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE INVENTORY. THE US WILL BEGIN TO PROPOSE THESE REGULATIONS BEGINNING IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1978, IN ORDER TO MEET THE ESTIMATED DEADLINE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PRE-MANUFACTURING NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, DEVELOPMENT OF TESTING REQUIREMENTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE US AND WITHIN THE OECD WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRE-MANUFACTURURE REGULATIONS. IN ADDITION, SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS DATA CONFIDENTIALITY, RISK EVALUATION, COST SHARING AND DATA CERTIFICATION, AMONG OTHERS, WILL BE FACTORED INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TESTING REGULATIONS.

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3. THE US SEEKS TO ACCOMPLISH IN STOCKHOLM A COMMITMENT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES WORLD WIDE, AND REAFFIRMATION OF THE WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY WITHIN OECD. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, THE US VIEWS THE PRIMARY FOCUS TO BE WITHIN THE CHEMICALS GROUP PROGRAM.

4. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE ECE HAS STARTED DISCUSSIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF THE CONTROL OF THE FLOW OF CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, THESE ARE AT AN EARLY STATE OF DEVELOPMENT, AND WILL ONLY SLOWLY EVOLVE.

5. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION MATERIALS ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES THAT WILL BE USED BY MS. MINK WILL BE POUCHED TO THE MISSION. COOPER

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